

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for guiding a printhead fixed to a carriage, which comprises:

a set of substantially parallel guide rods;

a plurality of plain bearings operatively connected with said carriage and in sliding contact with said set of substantially parallel guide rods;

a first plain bearing in contact with a first guide rod and a second plain bearing in contact with a second guide rod, the second plain bearing being movably fixed to the carriage by a resilient element, wherein the resilient element allows substantially no movement of the second plain bearing with respect to the carriage in a direction substantially parallel to the guide rods.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the resilient element allows the greatest movement of the second plain bearing with respect to the carriage in the plane formed by the first and a second guide rod.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the resilient element is a leaf spring.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the second plain bearing is fixed via the leaf spring to the carriage in such a manner that the

plane of the leaf spring is substantially parallel to the set of guide rods and is substantially perpendicular to the plane formed by said rods.

5.      The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the guide rods have a substantially round peripheral line and the bearing surfaces are concave.

6.      The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each bearing surface is an arc of a circle having a diameter substantially equal to the diameter of the guide rod which is in contact with said bearing surface.

7.      The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first plain bearing has two bearing surfaces, and wherein both bearing surfaces of said plain bearing are in contact with the guide rod substantially at the top thereof.

8.      The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the bearing surfaces are made from Iglidur X.

9.      An inkjet printer provided with the apparatus of claim 1.

10. A printhead carriage plain bearing comprising:  
a housing containing a cavity provided with a bearing ring for sliding contact between the plain bearing and a guide rod, said bearing ring having a first side facing the guide rod and an opposing second side facing the cavity wall, the first side being provided with recesses as well as the second side thereof and/or the cavity wall, such that the bearing ring is divided into a plurality of segments, two of which having a bearing surface for providing sliding contact with the rod, said two segments being supported at their second side by the cavity wall, and said plurality of segments including an adjacent segment that is not supported by the cavity wall.